

Message Text

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ORIGIN CG-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00
DOTE-00 EB-08 FMC-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 DLOS-09
OES-07 AID-05 CEQ-01 SOE-02 EPA-01 IO-13 L-03
NSF-01 NSC-05 PM-05 USIA-06 SS-15 SP-02 DOE-11
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DRAFTED BY USCG:DSHEEHAN:BGR
APPROVED BY IO/TRC - C.R. HARTLEY
EUR/SOV:JTREICHEL
EB/MA:CTAYLOR
IO/TRC:WADIAMANTI (PHONE)
-----088739 070452Z /21
R 062049Z JAN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORG, AORG, EWWT, IMCO, UR, US

SUBJECT: ADMINISTRATION INITIATIVES ON TANKER SAFETY
AND POLLUTION PREVENTION: PREPARATIONS FOR PLENIPOTENTIARY
CONFERENCE IN LONDON FEBRUARY 6-17, 1978

REFERENCE: MOSCOW 18475

1. EMBASSY SHOULD CONVEY FOLLOWING TO MORFLOT REPRESENT-
ATIVE:

----(A). USG IS SERIOUSLY EXAMINING ALTERNATIVE PROPOSALS
DEVELOPED AT MSC/MEPC JOINT SESSION IN OCTOBER. WE HAVE
NOT REACHED FINAL CONCLUSIONS.
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----(B).USG IS APPRECIATIVE OF SOVIET EFFORTS AT JOINT
SESSION TO FORMULATE ALTERNATIVE CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPMENT
PACKAGES ON WORKABLE STEERING STANDARDS.

----- (C). PROPOSAL TO ADOPT CRUDE OIL WASHING AS
ALTERNATIVE TO SEYREGATED BALLAST RETROFIT REMAINS

TROUBLESOME BECAUSE OF MANY UNCERTAINTIES RELATED TO OPERATIONAL USE. ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS POSED BY US HAVE NOT BEEN FORTHCOMING FROM PROPONENTS OF CRUDE OIL WASHING, ALTHOUGH OIL COMPANIES INTERNATIONAL MARINE FORUM (OCIMF) CONTINUES TO PROMISE INFO BEFORE FEBRUARY.

------(D). US WILL BE IN BETTER POSITION TO DISCUSS RELATIVE MERITS OF ALTERNATIVES AS FEBRUARY CONFERENCE APPROACHES.

-----(E) TWO OR THREE US DELEGATES COULD MEET WITH SOVIET DELEGATES IN LONDON ON FEBRUARY 2 OR 3. WE COULD ALSO MEET WITH ANY SOVIET REPS. ATTENDING OCIMF SYMPOSIUM IN WASHINGTON, JANUARY 17-18. PRIOR CONSTRAINTS AND COMMITMENTS HERE DO NOT ALLOW VISIT TO MOSCOW PRIOR TO FEBRUARY.

2. PLEASE REPORT SOVIET REACTION TO ABOVE, PARTICULARLY ANY SOVIET RESPONSE RE TIME AND PLACE OF POSSIBLE BILATERAL MEETING BEFORE PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE.

3. FYI - WHILE WE ARE PREPARED TO ENGAGE IN CANDID DISCUSSIONS WITH SOVIETS REGARDING OUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS ISSUES BEFORE FEBRUARY CONFERENCE, WE WILL AVOID DISCLOSING GAME PLAN FOR HANDLING ALTERNATIVES. WE WOULD PREFER TO ESTABLISH IN ADVANCE SUITABLE WORKING RELATION-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SHIP WITH SOVIETS WHICH WOULD FACILITATE RAPID AND EFFECTIVE PRIVATE COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN TWO DELEGATIONS IN LONDON AS POSITIONS OF OTHER DELEGATIONS EMERGE DURING CONFERENCE ITSELF. END FYI.

4. COPY OF MSC/MEPC FINAL REPORT HAS BEEN POUCHED TO ECON/COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR SKOUG. CHRISTOPHER

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